

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/P:SMMOWLE:ADR
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY
AF/EX - J. BRYANT
AF/C - W. SWING
AF/E - J. WHITING
AF/S - D. KEOGH
AF/W - B. HOUDEK

-----000104 251316Z /47,
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, AGS, OGEN

SUBJECT: SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

1. THIS IS TO INFORM THAT THE AF BUREAU PLANS TO SPONSOR AN INTERN PROGRAM IN AFRICAN POSTS AS IT HAS IN THE PAST.
2. THIS PROGRAM, WHICH WAS PIONEERED BY EMBASSY OUAGA-DOUGOU IN 1971, PLACES A GRADUATE STUDENT WITH THE POST DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, FROM EARLY JUNE TO LATE AUGUST/EARLY SEPTEMBER. THE INTERN WORKS ON A PROJECT MUTUALLY AGREED UPON BETWEEN THE POST AND THE INDIVIDUAL INTERN.
3. THE PROGRAM HAS TWO PURPOSES. FIRST, IT PROVIDES HIGHLY QUALIFIED GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN AFRICA ON A PROJECT IN THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE, AND TO EXPOSE THEM TO THE OPERATION OF A U.S. DIPLOMATIC

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MISSION. (MANY FORMER INTERNS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY ENTERED THE FOREIGN SERVICE)

4. SECOND, THE PROGRAM PROVIDES THE POST WITH ADDITIONAL STAFF TO UNDERTAKE A SPECIFIC PROJECT WHICH THE POST WOULD FIND USEFUL. MOST POSTS HAVE A VARIETY OF PROJECTS WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO INITIATE BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURES

OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS, AND MANY OF THESE PROJECTS WOULD BE

SUITABLE FOR A GRADUATE STUDENT. EVALUATIONS FROM THE POSTS INDICATE THAT THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN MEETING BOTH THE GOALS OF THE POST AND THE INTERN.

5. EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS WHICH INTERNS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY UNDERTAKEN INCLUDE: EVALUATIONS OF SELF-HELP PROJECTS; WAGE SURVEYS, POST MARKET-BASKET SURVEYS, EVALUATIONS OF HOST COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; SURVEYS OF BI-LATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS; SURVEY'S OF HOST COUNTRY'S INVESTMENT AND TRADE PROSPECTS FOR U.S. BUSINESS AND A SURVEY OF GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROJECTS WITH A VIEW TO DETERMINING FEASIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE. ONE INTERN REORGANIZED THE EMBASSY PERSONAL PROPERTY PROCUREMENT SYSTEM; OTHERS HAVE UPDATED POLITICAL BIOGRAPHIES AND FILES ON U.S. RESIDENTS.

6. IN ADDITION, POSTS HAVE FOUND THAT INTERNS CAN ASSIST IN A VARIETY OF ROUTINE EMBASSY FUNCTIONS -- HELP WITH VISITORS, PREPARE BRIEFING BOOKS, AND ASSIST IN CONSULAR ACTIVITIES. THIS ASSISTANCE COULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL DURING THE SUMMER WHEN POSTS ARE FREQUENTLY SHORT HANDED. IN GENERAL, THE INTERNS HAVE SHOWN AN ABILITY EQUIVALENT TO MOST JUNIOR OFFICERS AND HAVE SUCCESSFULLY HELPED OUT IN ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSULAR

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SECTIONS.

7. THE DEPARTMENT HAS OVER 60 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE SUMMER OF 1978, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. THEIR BACKGROUNDS INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, ECONOMICS, AFRICAN AREA STUDIES, POLITICAL SCIENCE, AGRICULTURE, HISTORY AND LANGUAGES. MOST HAVE TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY AND QUITE A FEW HAVE LIVED OR TRAVELED IN THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES.

8. WE WILL SELECT THE INTERNS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR ACADEMIC RECORDS, RECOMMENDATIONS, WRITING SKILLS AND OVERALL ADAPTABILITY. ABILITY TO WORK WITH LIMITED SUPERVISION WILL ALSO BE AN IMPORTANT CRITERIA OF SELECTION. AS PART OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS, CANDIDATES WERE ASKED TO IDENTIFY A PROJECT OF THEIR CHOICE; HOWEVER, MOST EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE ANY REASONABLE PROJECT WITHIN THEIR CAPABILITY.

9. IN RESPONSE TO A PROBLEM WHICH AROSE LAST SUMMER CONCERNING SECURITY CLEARANCES, WE WILL MAKE A PARTICULAR EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT ALL INTERNS HAVE THEIR CLEARANCE

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR POST.

10. UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE INTERN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS. THE POST PAYS THE INTERN, BY MEANS OF A PURCHASE ORDER, THE SALARY OF AN FSS - 8, STEP ONE, PLUS ANY ALLOWANCES TO WHICH FS PERSONNEL ARE ENTITLED. THE POST ALSO PROVIDES HOUSING AT NO COST TO THE INTERN.

11. IN VIEW OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE APPLICANTS THIS YEAR, POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO ACTIVELY EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING AN INTERN AND TO RESPOND REFTEL BY FEBRUARY 1. PLEASE INDICATE THE TYPES OF PROJECTS FOR WHICH YOU COULD EMPLOY AN INTERN, AND ANY SPECIAL ACADEMIC, UNCLASSIFIED

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LANGUAGE, OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS.

12. AFTER FINAL SELECTION OF INTERNS, WE WILL FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN POST AND INTERNS, VIA DESK OFFICERS, TO ENSURE THAT INTERNS ARE ADEQUATELY BRIEFED ABOUT THEIR PROJECTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL.
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